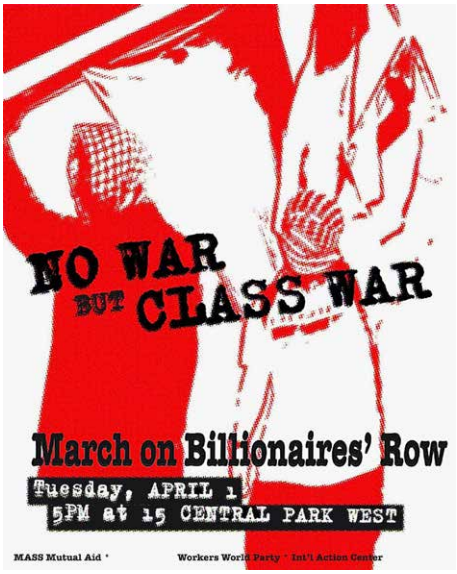
MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 13 March 27, 2025

New Yorkers to protest billionaires' rule


NO WAR BUT CLASS WAR
March on Billionaires' Row
Tuesday, APRIL 1
5PM at 15 CENTRAL PARK WEST
MASS Mutual Aid * Workers World Party * Int'l Action Center

By Hugo East
New York City

A rally and march on Billionaires' Row has been called for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, at 15 Central Park West in New York City. The protesters are demanding an end to the dictatorship of the billionaire class and its support of the ongoing genocide in Palestine. The action will call for the expropriation of the billionaires' hoarded wealth.

Billionaires' Row is the home to countless members of the U.S. and international ruling class and is in the wealthiest zip code in the U.S.

The demonstration is co-sponsored by MASS Mutual Aid, Workers World Party, International Action Center and others to be announced. ☐

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

American Postal Workers Union rally, Philadelphia, March 20, 2025. Hundreds of actions were held across the country that week. Read online.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Hundreds of militant protesters marched through Cleveland on March 22, 2025, to protest the latest genocide in Palestine. This emergency protest was pulled together on a few days notice. Popular chants included: "Yemen, Yemen, make us proud, turn another ship around!" and "From the sea to the river, Palestine will live forever."

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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WW STATEMENT

Mobilize to stop Netanyahu and Trump's genocidal war crimes!

March 19 — Workers World condemns in unequivocal terms Israel's latest genocidal assault on Gaza, carried out before dawn on March 17. Without warning, Israeli bombs slaughtered over 400 people, the majority of them children, women and elders. Nearly 600 other Palestinians were injured in this murderous attack.

For weeks Israel has violated the ceasefire deal signed with Hamas by blocking material aid to Gaza, killing Palestinian civilians and failing to withdraw Israeli troops from Gaza. As Mondoweiss reports, "Since the signing of the ceasefire agreement on January 17, which stipulated three consecutive 42-day phases under Egyptian, Qatari and American sponsorship, Hamas has largely adhered to the terms of the first phase, while Israel has systematically violated it." (Mondoweiss.net, March 18)

Israel carried out these murders with the blessing of the Trump administration, as confirmed by White House spokesperson Caroline Leavitt. Trump's guilt does not absolve Washington's Democratic Party politicians, most of whom refused to even sign a letter calling for the release of Mahmoud Khalil, the Palestinian Columbia graduate seized illegally by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has unilaterally declared the ceasefire to be over. The Palestinian Resistance has every right to use its military capabilities to push back against Zionist aggression.

Those of us in the anti-imperialist movement in the U.S. have an obligation to heed the clear call from the Resistance forces. Hamas stated: "We call for pressure to be exerted on the occupation and the American administration that supports it to halt this aggression. This can be achieved through the following:

- First: Solidarity marches and activities in cities and capitals around the world and to raise our voices loudly to reject this zionist aggression and condemning the crimes of the occupation and American support for this aggressive war.
- Second: Mass participation in the siege of the occupation embassies and American embassies around the world and pressure by all means to halt the aggression and the ongoing genocide war against our Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.
- Third: Raising the Palestinian flag and mobilizing all energies and means in support of the legitimate rights of our Palestinian people to a dignified life on their land, ending the unjust siege and achieving freedom and independence."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine wrote: "We call upon university students, unions and communities in the United States and Europe to immediately take to the streets, to besiege the White House and the Pentagon — centers of decision-making supporting the occupation — and to deliver a clear message to the murderers that the world will not remain silent in the face of these crimes."

Palestinians in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, protest ongoing genocide in Gaza on March 18, 2025

Ansarallah Commander Sayyed Abdulmalik Badr El-Din Al-Houthi of Yemen also called for the escalation of solidarity actions.

Workers World cannot and will not be silent in the face of such gruesome war crimes committed by Israel and U.S. imperialism. We call on our readers to support all the actions already underway in the United States to demonstrate against the latest U.S.-Israeli murders. We reiterate our complete solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance, which has the right to fight, as Malcolm X put it, "by any means necessary."

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! ☐

Quotes from Palestinian and Yemeni forces are from Resistance News Network.

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Billionaires: Hands off Social Security!

By Betsey Piette

Trump's 2024 campaign promised not to cut Social Security and proposed not to tax benefits. But now that he's elected, Trump's practices contradict his campaign promises. Privatization of retirement and disability benefits, which has long been a goal of capitalist hedge fund investors who back Trump and may now gain access to Social Security funds, is a real threat for retired and disabled workers.

Trump and billionaire Elon Musk have engaged in unfounded distortions about the Social Security Administration, calling it "mismanaged" and "riddled with fraud." In an interview with Joe Rogan in February, Musk called Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time." Discussing entitlement spending he deemed wasteful on Fox Business, Musk called Social Security "the big one to eliminate." (NBC News, March 23)

However, Nancy Altman, with the nonprofit Social Security Works, said, "Not only is real fraud so rare as to be totally negligible (0.00002 %), the SSA is also exceptional in that less than a penny of every dollar spent is spent on administration." (Truthout, March 17)

That hasn't stopped Trump and Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from taking the ax to this nearly 90-year-old program.

Protest for Social Security during Trump's first term, Washington, D.C., Aug. 13, 2018.

DOGE invasion

In February, DOGE staff demanded access to SSA records for 70 million people containing protected data, including Social Security numbers, financial and personal information, immigration status and more. When Acting Commissioner Michelle King stepped down over privacy concerns about DOGE's access, Trump put Leland Dudek in charge; Dudek had openly cooperated with DOGE.

The appointment of Frank Bisignano, Trump's choice to become SSA commissioner, is still pending Senate approval. Bisignano, known as a Wall Street "fixer," openly advocates cost-cutting by reducing the workforce, even to the extent of replacing workers with AI chatbots.

Meanwhile, Dudek has laid off two dozen senior administrators and announced plans to fire 7,000 of SSA's 57,000 workers, gutting the workforce to a 50-year low. While closing many field and regional offices, on March 18 Dudek eliminated the option of applying for or changing benefits by phone, forcing older and disabled recipients to apply either on-line or in-person. Appointment wait time is now expected to take months.

When federal judge Ellen L. Hollander barred DOGE employees from accessing the SSA building on March 20, Dudek threatened to shut the agency down. Dudek is in over his head as acting administrator, but the bigger dangers to the program are the private equity investors eager to step in.

According to Bloomberg News, a group of private equity investors — Antonio Gracias, founder of Valor Equity Partners; Scott Coulter, formerly of Lone Pine Capital; and Michael Russo, formerly of Shift4 — have stepped into agency roles on the direct orders of Bisignano. (March 10)

Social Security cuts impact women the most

As of February 2025, an estimated 73.2 million people received Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or both. Any attack on Social Security will impact women the most. According to the SSA, among women aged 65 and older, 44% receive more than half of their income from Social Security, and 15% rely on SS for 90% of their income.

Social Security benefits belong to the workers. Every dollar that goes into Social Security and Medicare is deducted from workers' checks to be matched by employers. The monies go into the Social Security Trust Fund, valued at approximately $2.79 trillion at the end of 2024. The funds are deferred wages, to be paid out during retirement or periods of disability; the working class regards their benefits as as "sacrosanct" and "inviolable."

Workers fought for Social Security

In an article headlined "Social Security belongs to the workers" from workers.org printed in 2013, Kathy Durkin explained the history of Social Security:

"The Social Security Act was enacted by Congress and signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Aug. 14, 1935. This law was the result of militant, massive class struggles by labor unions, unemployed councils, Black organizations, socialists, communists and other progressives during the Great Depression. Hundreds of protests pressured employers

Continued on next page

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Swarthmore students punished for Gaza protests

By Betsey Piette

Swarthmore students protest the college administration's efforts to discipline those who engaged in pro-Palestinian protests on campus, November 2024.

Swarthmore College issued sanctions on March 6 against 15 students for participating in anti-genocide activism for Palestinians in Gaza. Their peaceful demonstrations of solidarity with Gaza occurred between October 2023 and March 2024. The college in Media, Pennsylvania, is located outside of Philadelphia.

The most extreme sanctions are aimed against one graduating senior who was suspended, nine who received one-semester probation and one who received a two-semester probation. The second-semester senior set to graduate was suspended on the charge of "assault" for the use of a megaphone indoors. This is the first suspension of its kind in the U.S. There is no basis for this charge in either Pennsylvania state law or the Swarthmore College Code of Conduct. (ActionNetwork.org, March 6)

The press release issued by the Swarthmore Palestine Coalition notes: "The harshest sanctions were directed at Arab and Muslim students of color. The majority of students targeted are first-generation, low-income students of color. Some now face homelessness and unemployment as a direct result of these sanctions, and two students are losing their campus jobs."

These sanctions were issued just days after Trump tweeted: "All Federal Funding will STOP for any College, School, or University that allows illegal protests. Agitators will be imprisoned/sent back to the country from which they came. American Students will permanently be expelled. NO MASKS."

The administration at Swarthmore, long considered a "liberal" college because of its Quaker legacy, is following in the footsteps of Columbia, Brown, Cornell, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania and other Ivy League institutions in caving to pressure from the right-wing Trump administration.

The Trump administration already has canceled $400 million in federal grants and contracts to Columbia asserting the school "failed to handle complaints of [alleged] antisemitism as protests mounted on the campus last spring."

Swarthmore was among 60 colleges threatened with sanctions by the U.S. Department of Education earlier this month amid ongoing investigations into "antisemitic" activity on their campuses. A petition demanding the reversal of the sanctions on students at Swarthmore can be signed at: **tinyurl.com/2vdc8n5v**. ☐

Billionaires: Hands off Social Security!

Continued from previous page

and the government for Social Security retirement benefits and unemployment insurance.

"The law was amended in 1956 to pay out disability benefits." In December 2024, 7.2 million disabled workers received Social Security disability benefits, with 86,000 spouses and 1.1 million children under 18 also receiving payments.

Durkin continued: "Major encroachments have been made already. The Reagan-era Social Security Amendments of 1983 raised the eligibility age for full benefits from 65 to 67, starting in the year 2000, and sped up payroll tax hikes, among other measures. Millions of undocumented workers, who paid tens of billions of dollars into the fund, aren't entitled to collect Social Security benefits.

"Right-wing politicians and pundits falsely claim that Social Security contributes to the federal 'deficit,' draining the economy. But not only has the program paid for itself with workers' contributions, the government has raided the Fund's 'surplus' for 40 years, using it to pay for wars abroad, interest payments to banks and Wall Street bailouts.

"There is enough money in the Trust Fund to keep the program solvent and pay benefits until 2033. The government is legally required to repay the funds taken from the account, and this is the crisis: Will it pay back what's rightfully owed to the workers?" Durkin concluded this is the key issue. (workers.org/2013/04/8367/)

The capitalists and millionaire politicians don't want to repay the debt, and so they constantly connive to figure out how to cut the benefits — or even eliminate the program altogether. ☐

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DECLARACIÓN DE M.O.

¡Movilízate para detener los crímenes de guerra genocidas de Netanyahu y Trump!

19 de marzo — Mundo Obrero condena en términos inequívocos el último asalto genocida de Israel contra Gaza, llevado a cabo antes del amanecer del 17 de marzo. Sin previo aviso, las bombas israelíes masacraron a más de 400 personas, la mayoría niños, mujeres y ancianos. Casi otros 600 palestinos resultaron heridos en este ataque asesino.

Durante semanas Israel ha violado el acuerdo de alto el fuego firmado con Hamás bloqueando la ayuda material a Gaza, matando a civiles palestinos y sin retirar las tropas israelíes de Gaza. Como informa Mondoweiss, «Desde la firma del acuerdo de alto el fuego el 17 de enero, que estipulaba tres fases consecutivas de 42 días bajo el patrocinio egipcio, qatarí y estadounidense, Hamás se ha adherido en gran medida a los términos de la primera fase, mientras que Israel la ha violado sistemáticamente.» (Mondoweiss.net, 18 de marzo)

Israel llevó a cabo estos asesinatos con la bendición de la administración Trump, como confirmó la portavoz de la Casa Blanca, Caroline Leavitt. La culpabilidad de Trump no absuelve a los políticos del Partido Demócrata de Washington, la mayoría de los cuales se negaron incluso a firmar una carta pidiendo la liberación de Mahmoud Khalil, el graduado palestino de Columbia detenido ilegalmente por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

El primer ministro israelí, Benjamin Netanyahu, ha declarado unilateralmente el fin del alto el fuego. La Resistencia palestina tiene todo el derecho a utilizar sus capacidades militares para hacer frente a la agresión sionista.

Los que formamos parte del movimiento antiimperialista en Estados Unidos tenemos la obligación de atender el claro llamamiento de las fuerzas de la Resistencia. Hamás declaró: «Pedimos que se presione a la ocupación y a la administración estadounidense que la apoya para que detengan esta agresión. Esto puede lograrse mediante lo siguiente:

- Primero: Marchas y actividades de solidaridad en ciudades y capitales de todo el mundo y alzar nuestras voces en voz alta para rechazar esta agresión sionista y condenar los crímenes de la ocupación y el apoyo estadounidense a esta guerra agresiva.
- Segundo: Participación masiva en el asedio a las embajadas de la ocupación y a las embajadas estadounidenses en todo el mundo y presión por todos los medios para detener la agresión y la guerra genocida en curso contra nuestro pueblo palestino en la Franja de Gaza.
- Tercero: Izar la bandera palestina y movilizar todas las energías y medios en apoyo de los derechos legítimos de nuestro pueblo palestino a una vida digna en su tierra, poniendo fin al injusto asedio y logrando la libertad y la independencia."

El Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina escribió: «Hacemos un llamamiento a los estudiantes universitarios, a los sindicatos y a las comunidades de Estados Unidos y Europa para que salgan inmediatamente a la calle, asedien la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono -centros de toma de decisiones que apoyan la ocupación- y envíen un mensaje claro a los asesinos de que el mundo no permanecerá en silencio ante estos crímenes.»

Palestinos en Ramala, en Cisjordania, protestan contra el genocidio en curso en Gaza el 18 de marzo de 2025.

El comandante de Ansarallah Sayyed Abdulmalik Badr El-Din Al-Houthi de Yemen también hizo un llamamiento a la intensificación de las acciones de solidaridad.

Mundo Obrero/Workers World no puede callarse ni se callará ante tan espantosos crímenes de guerra cometidos por Israel y el imperialismo estadounidense. Hacemos un llamamiento a nuestros lectores para que apoyen todas las acciones que ya están en marcha en Estados Unidos para manifestarse contra los últimos asesinatos yanquis-israelíes. Reiteramos nuestra total solidaridad con la Resistencia Palestina, que tiene derecho a luchar, como dijo Malcolm X, «por cualquier medio necesario».

Del río al mar, ¡Palestina será libre! ❐

Las citas de las fuerzas palestinas y yemeníes proceden de Resistance News Network.

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